3/14/72

Dear Gary,

How glad I am our letters crossed, that you wrote your 3/11, apparently, before getting the carbon on mine to Ned! I read yours while freezing this a.m. , awaiting the opening of a store that had a file-cabinet for sale at $1.44. (I got it, too, despite late line-crashers, because I'd gone to the trouble of learning where it was last night and bee-lining today.) So, I'll skim it again while I answer and, incidently, catch my breath and let me nerves still.

On Lil and taxes: she'll be glad, but it would have to be fast. If you have it dohe there, I suggest that you sand a copy to her for checking. She is good at it. There is a fixed Block charge, by the way, so much for each schedule, etc., so she can check that for you, too, if you feel there is an overcharge.

The Whites also told me of the pleasant evening they had with you and Hal. They hadn't seen him in a while. I remain with the uneasy feeling that Hal has problems none of us recognize. I base this on his long silences when he is not that busy and his failure to respond to my request that he do a valuable favor that would not be a lot of trouble for him. If this is correct, I wish he would share them with friends, which can help. Need I tel you? I wish I'd known before you went out there so I could have backgrounded you.

PM pagination: the first two parts, I and III, have been changed somewhat. I take it your question which does not say which part relates to what is for copyright purposes called II but is really the final part. The first page of that is 223. The number of that first chapter is 20.

When you sned the memo to Paul V, if you have a copy, please send it to me. I see a book in that and may know the person to interest when I am in NYC again. If you understand the scope of the questions I was feeding when we lunched together, I was trying to interest him in more than a news story.

Silence from Mary is especially disappointing because of the ideal and unequalled situation I left for her to exploit: two new archives opened!

Thumb: progress ok, I guess. The ortho surgeon wants to see me again about 6/1. When I saw him he said he esti,ated it would take about three more months, or a total of five, for the scar tissue to reduce to the point where he can make further examination. I saw the X-rays. Nothing wrong with bones. However, the joint seems swollen. I'd never heard of swollen bones and think that doesn't account for it. And the finger is stiff still. Howeveer, with the injunction against use from the MD removed, I am using it, and I am certain that helps. It may have limbered up just a bit. But when the weather permits I'mpulling honeysuckle out of the trees, trimming the downed trees out, chopping up all the branches, for animal-shelter files, smallest pieces, and firewood, all the rest, and it is not really uncomfortable enough to mention. Whatmyou say about the nerves is probably the case. It is an odd sensation to have the mind telegraph "numb" when the skin is touched anywhere near the cut. The skin is all new there, which may account for some of it. The cut itself is as cosmetic as Perry's transverse tracheostomy and for the same reason, it is hidden by the natural folds of the skin. Not that the cosmetics concern me. The entire middle joint is still swollen, which I can't understand and don't worry about.

Nephew: I think he may be in more trouble than he has admitted, and I think it is part alienation, part life-long spoiling, part bad friends, part his ducking me when he says he is coming. He seems to be more than adequately represented by the public-defender's office. While there is no question of the technical guilt, it was to him an act of kindness. But the fact is that under the law he is properly charged with contributing to the delinquency o a minor, an unwanted minor girl who was running away from hime. My concern is dual: that the new charge constitutes double jeopardy because he was convicted on that charge in Florida and sentence suspended; and that he has real and partly-recognized psychological problems. If he comes, and I'd best not press any more, I'll now know how to guide him. You might when you next write, if you know, give mema name at the DC free clinic. That is much closer for him, and if you think the Baltimore one better, so incidate and again, do you have a name. He is doubt to feel rejected now because of the rather backward attitude of his mother, which is you got yourself into it, now get out; and the fact that his father has just had the umteenth heart attack and stroke-and he has avoided going to see him. When he finally got the word to do it or get out of the war, he went. But he is so turned off

or so apprehensive of talking to me that he wouldn't even bring the family's and his tax papers here for Lil to do. The mother brought them last night. This is out-of-character. Until the escapade, the kid was giving his father his shots. You spoke rather highly of the Balt one to Paul, as I recall. But my mind was intent upon leading you into the fullest account to Paul hence not fixed on any one point. I doubt this is or at least is yet a "hotline" situation. I think I can force the kid to come here, and I think I can shake from him what he is hiding from others. He is a southerner, his best friend and associate in this "crime" is black, his parents are racist, but he knows I am not. I think the chief things that deter his coming is that there is more than I know and he doesn't want to talk about that, and he may fear of know of more serious offenses by his black friend, who has no visible means of support.

This gets me to the most interesting part that I've saved forlast, Ned. By the way, before that and for when you have time, for what counsel you can give, two things about this 18-year-old: he is adopted and knows it, had a stroke as an infant and had to be kept on phenolbarbital for years to depress activity (I can only wonder how active he would have been without it!) and is much overweight, which I think bears on the psychological; and his father is a man of limited interests, chiefly autos, and the only togetherness of which I know was at the drag strip, where he dragged the kid and in which he entered him in the juvenile classes.

What you say of Ned, as I understand it, boils down to these things:

His behavior has changed radically from the time of his break with me, manifested by his remoteness where you were close and his failure to consult where he would have.

He has been in intimate touch with others and not you(or me), and this, as of the past, would have been in consultation with you (none has communicated to me anything of which I have not told you and that is little and relates only to his breaking of our agreement). This also is out-of-character for him.

He knows you will challenge him if you disagree (inherently, without specifying, this seems to say you think he knows he is wrong and won't face you on that).

(I think you should tell me with whom he is in touch and whether to keep it in confidence or not. Remember, I am the one and probably the only one who will or who will even consider confronting whatever he is up to.)

He can't face the record of the Establishment, of which he ispart, and this is the closest you come to an explanation. I can follow your reasoning and agree with it in part in one formulation and as the cause of what else there is in another. I happen to think that more is involved, and in areas close to what you suggest. I think you are cprrect as far as you go. I anticipated this before we were at all close and I tried to get him to see what you know I believe and heard me expiund at great length four years ago, that my work is pro-Establishment, not anti-, and that if it succeeds, it will restore confidence, not reduce it, that having been done already. So, he did not at any point argue that I am engaged in an assault on the establishment, did not indicte he feels it, and certainly can comprehend that short of the irrational, whatever the Establishment does is right, has to understand it. I think he is bitten by the bug, in part, wants kudos, and his offers to me could hardly be more specific (reread his last offer and the changes in it as he wrote it); and in part, conceiving himself as a superbrain, has his ego deeply affronted by his inability to prevail in a single point -and this in his own self-concept - when he confronted me. Remember his ultimate protest, "I have never been so put-dpwn in my life!" This is not the usual confession at the end of a discussion and analysis of differences between men engaged in any kind of joint project. It is, rather, the ultimate in personalization. I think that as a consequence of this, and especially the result within his own mind, in terms of his own concept of self in partocular, he is really bugged to the point where he really wants to wreck me and my work, to kill any prospect, slim as it may be, for the book which would do better than anything he can exactly what he pretends to want to do. His behavior with Teddy's office, by the way, was an immoral and unethical as it could be. He went there posing as friend and partisan, but was and is really off on a get-Kennedy kick. Here he'll have complete and unstinting sympathy from Sylvia, whose silence has been so complete that she has not sent me on Lattimer what she ordinarily would have, immediately. (HR has fallen silent, but I can attribute that to hard work.)

He does have a very good intelligence. Therefore, I think he can realize that if he is to pursue the interest of the Establishment in any honest, rational way, it has to be in terms of making the Establishment viable, not in calling wrong right and then corruption pseudo-proof of it. He doesn't help the Establishment by hurting the Kennedy familyas such or Teddy as an individual. What he seems to be up to is anti-Establishmentarian and can't be consistent with the ultimate establishmen and acceptance of truth, his pretended goal.

So, I'm postulating a much deeper and much more serious personal involvement than you. I'm not suggesting it is conscious. I am getting to the point where I could believe some of it might well be, rationalized as ethical opposition to me.

I'm suggesting something you do not address, pressure from his wife. He made a rather interesting disclosure of her to us, that she doesn't want him doing this but wants him getting his PhD done; and that she has made him spend every cent of cash he has to build her (and he out it that way) an excessively-elaborate home.

You mentioned his interview with Weinreb. If he told you what he told me, Weinreb's reaction convinced him I/we am/are right. That is inconsistent with your theory, to me.

At this point my attitude has changed. I think you are aware that at the beginning I went to some trouble to get him to t ink the whole thing through, that I triend to get him to understand both his behavior and his actions and how he might come to regard this later. I think I was not unkind or ungenerous, especially after the trauma he left here. If Lil spoke to you about this, you know the depth of her feeling. She does not impart trust as readily as I, and she thought very well of him, so anything she has to say I think deserves serious consideration.

There are some peculiar things I observed in him. It boils down to a characteristic of the rich, but I found I did not expect it in him. He has given me minor help, but the net result is to subject me to costs he did not bear and I could not afford. One is on the pictures, where I am far from finished and can't stop now, and the other is on the declassified documents, where he sent me less than half their cost and he had agreed to get me all of them, in duplicate, so I could do what nobody else likely would, keep a separate file of the 1970 declassification. I'd have gotten one set. I'd not have gotten the second. And as I recall it, what he did send came to a little less than the actual cost of a single set. Now, with his money, this is really cheap. And one thing that Lil noted, when he was here, he didn't take her out to eat, a neglegible cost to him. I told him we could supply the food, and we did. But I do think he might have insisted. The cost of the food is not that great, but when I counted up the number of free meals we supplied last year, I was truly astounded and the cost for us totalled a burden. It was several hundred.

As of now, I'm serious about filing a civil action here if he accomplishes what he has set out upon. It will damage me and it will to his knowledge damage me and it will, can't avoid, breach my trust and our agreement. You will not have the time to reread his offcers, in writing alone, but if you do I think his yearning for recognition will become very, very clear. In drafting the epilogue, I did go over the file (I do not mention his name or provide any means of identification except to the few who are privy, who do not have to be told in a book.) And by the way, I also went over my Cyril file, with surprisingly clear reflection of a pattern I would not have expected.

Gary, if there is anyone who knows I'm anything but paranoid, it is you. You tested me at my request. You also have a notion of my track record in such matters, and that my hunches and analyses have turned out to be right most of the time. Thus I go by them. I'd like to be wrong about Ned, but I think it is as I've said. I don't know if I'm sorrier for him or for me. Of the many things of which you might think, consider these two: about 5 months ago Marshall said he would not under any circumstances let anyone see anything; and about the first of the year he not only changed but picked the one man the contract excluded, a man of whom he knew nothing, and a man of Lattimer's record. I don't know what caused the change. When I know Ned wanted to go to him and others at Yale, I can't ingore it. Best,